

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 1261

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA, TZ

SUBJ: FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASPECTS OF MCP CONVENTION OPENING

1. PRESIDENT BANDA OPENED MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY (MCP) ANNUAL CONVENTION AT MZUZU SEPTEMBER 2. APPROXIMATELY 80 MINUTES AT START TAKEN UP BY RECIPROCAL WELCOMING SPEECHES FOR ZAMBIAN AND TANZANIAN DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING UNIP AND TANU. THIS WAS FIRST ATTENDANCE BY TANZANIAN DELEGATION AT MCP CONVENTION. PRESIDENT GREETED VISITORS WARMLY AND THEY RECEIVED WITH ACCLAMATION BY MALAWI DELEGATES. ZAMBIA REPRESENTED BY REUBEN KAMANGA, MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WHO MADE HIT BY TALKING PARTLY IN CHICHEWA. HE MENTIONED ATTENDANCE OF MALAWI MINISTER AT RECENT UNIP CONVENTION AT MULUMGUSHI. TANZANIAN THREE-MAN DELEGATION LED BY JOSEPH MUNGAI, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, WHO ACCOMPANIED BY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AREA BORDERING MALAWI JUST NORTH OF SONGWE RIVER WHICH SCENE OF DIFFICULTIES IN PAST. HE TALKED ABOUT "BROTHERHOOD" OF PEOPLE OF TWO COUNTRIES AND TREMENDOUS WELCOME GIVEN PRESIDENT BANDA IN DAR ES SALAAM IN 1959 AS
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NATIONAL LEADER. MUNGAI INVITED MCP SEND DELEGATION TO 1973

TANU CONVENTION.

2. PRESIDENT BANDA REMINISCED ABOUT COOPERATION OF THREE COUNTRIES DURING EARLY DAYS OF STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE AND SPOKE OF IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH ZAMBIA SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH COMMISSION IN 1970 AND MORE RECENTLY WITH TANZANIA, DESCRIBING THEM NOW AS GOOD AND FRIENDLY. HE DECLARED THERE NO REASON THEY SHOULD NOT COOPERATE DESPITE FACT MALAWI MAINTAINED RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGAL AND RHODESIA. HE EMPHASIZED PEOPLE OF THREE COUNTRIES ARE "BROTHERS" AND BOUNDARIES ARTIFICIAL CREATION OF IMPERIALISTS. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT REJECTED SUGGESTION THAT HE AND NYERERE WERE "BROTHERS," ASSERTING WHILE HE AND KENYATTA WERE "BROTHERS," NYERERE AND KAUNDA WERE HIS "NEPHEWS."

3. CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENT'S TWO-HOUR PLUS MAIN SPEECH CONTRASTED WITH INITIAL CORDIAL EXCHANGES. BANDA PUT ON TANTRUM SKIT AT WHICH HE IS A MASTER, BEATING ON PODIUM WITH FLY WHISK AND SHOUTING HE WILL "NEVER, NEVER" CHANGE HIS FOREIGN POLICIES. MALAWI'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND MOZAMBIQUE WILL REMAIN SAME AS IN PAST. MALAWI WILL NEVER MAKE APPROACHES TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES; INSTEAD TWO OF THEM HAD APPROACHED MALAWI. PRESIDENT SUMMONED JOHN NGWIRI, SECRETARY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHO CONFIRMED THAT TWO APPROACHES RECEIVED IN ADDIS AND TWO IN "NEIGHBORING COUNTRY." PRESIDENT DEMANDED OF MUNGAIF HE HAD COME TO INDUCE HIM TO CHANGE HIS POLICIES. MUNGAIF TACTFULLY REPLIED "WE CAME BECAUSE WE ARE BROTHERS." PRESIDENT'S ACT RECEIVED USUAL ROAR OF APPROVAL FROM CONVENTION.

4. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S ASSERTIONS OF INFLEXIBILITY NOTWITHSTANDING, WE BELIEVE PRESENCE OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL UNIP AND TANU DELEGATIONS MARKS CONTINUATION OF TREND TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH BLACK AFRICAN STATES. PRESIDENT PRIDES HIMSELF ON CONSISTENCY AND WOULD BY UNLIKELY PUBLICLY TO ADMIT ADJUSTMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICIES. WHILE ASSERTING HE WILL "NEVER" CHANGE, PRESIDENT DID NOT TAKE OPPORTUNITY AS OFTEN DONE IN PAST TO DWELL UPON VIRTUES OF HIS RELATIONS WITH WHITE REGIMES AND ERRORS OF OAU AND OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS. ZAMBIA HAS LARGELY TAKEN INITIATIVES IN TRYING TO PROMOTE

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BETTER RELATIONS AND TANZANIA MAY NOW BE JOINING IN, PERHAPS WITH ZAMBIAN ENCOURAGEMENT. PRESUMABLY THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY FOR ZAMBIA BECAUSE AS ON THIS OCCASION IT HAS INCLUDED SWALLOWING SOME RATHER UNPALATABLE REMARKS. BURDETT

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